

Gabe Terronez was born on March 24, 1940 to Jesus and Paula Terronez in Cameron, Texas. His family settled in the great San Joaquin Valley where his athletic gifts were able to flourish. While a student at Corcoran High School, Gabe earned championships in wrestling and in track. Not only did Gabe possess superior athletic talent, he was also a man of outstanding character.

In 1957, Gabe joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served his Nation proudly. During his time in the Marines, Gabe won the Inter-Service Boxing championship. In 1960, Gabe competed in the Olympic trials and was also a number five world-ranked welterweight with a 32–8 record and 19 knock-outs.

Following his seven-year career, Gabe decided to broaden his horizons and pursue an undergraduate degree. He used his earnings from professional boxing to help pay for his college tuition. After attending Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno, Gabe earned a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish.

Gabe spent his adult life serving the public in a number of capacities. Upon graduating from college, he worked for then-governor, Ronald Reagan, as a community relations consultant. Gabe later went on to work for the University of California, focusing his time on migrant and at-risk adolescents as a youth development specialist until his retirement in 1992. Gabe served as an exceptional role model for these young men and women because he was an example of the American Dream. By working hard and showcasing determination in all of his endeavors, Gabe encountered great success in his life.

Gabe was preceded in death by his wife of 25 years, Elizabeth Huerta Terronez. He is survived by his children Stephanie, Dante, Desiree, Damien, and Nicole; his grandchildren Nicholas and Mia Elizabeth; and his siblings, Cecil, Lupe, and Janie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Gabriel "Gabe" Terronez, an honorable and respected man whose talent and passion were not only exhibited in the boxing ring, but also in his unwavering commitment to our community and his loving family.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HOUSE EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the recipients of the House Employee Excellence Award.

The House's most important asset is its dedicated and exceptional employees, whose

work often behind the scenes, is vital in keeping the operations and services of the House running smoothly and efficiently. The employees we recognize today are acknowledged and commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, support of House Members and their staffs and constituents, and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees have a wide range of responsibilities that support the legislative process, assure the security of the institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to a more effective and efficiently operating House support structure. They have accomplished a great many things in a wide range of activities, and the House of Representatives and its Members, staff, and the general public, are better served because of them.

We honor the individuals named below for 25 years of dedicated service to the House. Collectively, this group has provided two hundred seventy-five (275) years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives:

Gretchen Ewers, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Kevin Harris, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Darius Holmes, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

Thomas E. Mako, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Craig D. Pence, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Dean Phan, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Paul Rossiter, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Airlie Shoemaker, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

David Spurling, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Matthew B. Smith, Office of the Clerk;

Sandra E. Watkins, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

We also recognize and congratulate four House employees for receiving the Employee Excellence Award. This is a merit-based award, given to one employee from each House Officer organization, and the Office of Inspector General. Selected employees exhibited outstanding overall job performance and displayed a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty throughout the last year. We honor the individuals named below for receiving this prestigious award.

Traci L. Brasher, Office of the Sergeant at Arms;

Faye Cobb, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer;

Michele Herzfeld, Office of the Clerk;

Gregory M. Roberts, Office of Inspector General.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations and once again recognize and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officers and the Inspector General. Their long hours and hard work are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service, dedication, and commitment to the House set an example for their colleagues and other employees who will follow in their footsteps. I celebrate our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and the nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

KEVIN JEFFERSON

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Kevin Jefferson, a lifelong community leader and public servant. Through his work on issues from voter registration to gun control community empowerment, and through his service as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Kevin made a lasting difference for the better in the time that he was given.

Kevin began his career in public service early as a student at Bowie State, where he played an active role in student life. After serving on Rev. Jesse L. Jackson's Presidential campaign staff in 1984 and 1988, Kevin joined the national staff of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, through which he promoted voter registration and education. He went on to become the first National Minority Affairs Coordinator at Handgun Control, Inc., and in this role, traveled the country to help secure support for the Brady Gun Control Bill. His leadership on these important initiatives led to his involvement with President Clinton's Presidential campaign. And in 2000, he was appointed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and later held numerous positions at the State Department. Kevin also served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Labor, Honorable Alexis Herman, and was appointed to the Office of the President, Community Empowerment Board. Throughout his lifetime, Kevin served on a number of Presidential campaigns, worked closely with the DNC and served as the Executive Director of the Democratic National Committee Voting Rights Institute. He is honored and respected by the Democratic Party for his hard work and support.

I join Kevin's family, church and all those who knew and loved Kevin in appreciation for his well-lived life and in fond reflection on his memory. I was proud to count him as a friend, and he will be dearly missed.

HONORING SAN RAFAEL POLICE CHIEF MATTHEW ODETTO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a passionate and dedicated public servant. San Rafael Police Chief Matthew Odetto announced his retirement in July 2011, the culmination of thirty years of work serving the people and public safety of Marin County. His leadership has touched the lives of countless Marin residents, and his example has helped forge new bonds between our law enforcement organizations and the communities they serve.

Odetto comes from a family with well-established roots in Marin County and in law enforcement. He started his career in 1981 as a deputy with the Marin County Sheriff's Office, based in Southern Marin, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. In that position, he served as commander of the Sheriff's SWAT team